

Message Text

SECRET

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-10 OMB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 NIC-01 EB-07 AID-05

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R 251717Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3499

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL LUANDA

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 2651

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TP

SUBJECT: MOVEMENT FOR LIBERATION OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE (MLSTP)

REF: A) STATE 252758 OF NOVEMBER 15, 1974

B) BRUSSELS 8382 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. MLSTP ACTIVIST MIGUEL DA GRACS IS CONCERNED OVER INCREASING STRENGTH OF LIFTIST ELEMENTS LIBERATION IN MOVEMENT AND OVER REPORTED SOVIET DELIVERIES OF ARMS TO SAO TOME AND CAP VERDE. DE GRACA, WHO IS BROTHER OF CARLOS DA GRACA OF MLSTP, IS DISAPPOINTED THAT US HAS NOT RESPONDED TO APPEAL TO SUPPORT MODERATES IN MLSTP. END SUMMARY.

2. MARIO LBEAULIEU, FRIEND OF MIGUEL DA GRACA, ACTIVIST IN MOVEMENT FOR LIBERATION OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE (MLSTP), CALLED AT EMBASSY MARCH 18 TO RECOUNT CONVERSATION HE SAID HE HAD HAD WITH DA GRACA FEW DAYS EARLIER. BEAULIEU

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SAID THAT DA GRACA WAS ALARMED BY GROWING STRENGTH OF SUPPORT

FOR LEFTIST ELEMENTS IN MLSTP, PARTICULARLY GASTAO TORRES, WHOM HE SAID HAS BACKING OF PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS AND OF ADMIRAL OTELO, CHIEF OF COPCON. DA GRACA ALSO HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER REPORTS OF RECENT DEBARKATION OF ARMS BY SOVIET SHIPS AT SAO TOME AND CAP VERDE ISLANDS, EVIDENTLY FOR USE BY COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS.

3. BEAULIEU SAID THAT IN RECENT CONVERSATION, AS IN ONE HELD IN MID-JANUARY, DA GRACA HAD SPOKEN OF HIS SEVERE DISAPPOINTMENT OVER LACK OF US RESPONSE TO HIS APPEAL FOR SUPPORT (REF B). DA GRACA INDICATED HIS BELIEF THAT US HAS NO INTEREST IN FUTURE OF AFRICA OR PORTUGUESE ISLANDS AND IS WILLING TO LEAVE FIELD TO EXTREMISTS. DA GRACA WAS SURPRISED THAT US HAD MADE NO MOVE IN LIBREVILLE OR ELSEWHERE TO FOLLOW UP HIS CONTACTS WITH THIS EMBASSY OR HIS LETTER REQUESTING ASSISTANCE (POUCHED TO EUR/IB OCTOBER 30, 1974). HE HAD NOTED THAT HE WOULD COMPROMISE HIMSELF WITH RADICAL MEMBERS OF MLSTP IF HE WERE SEEN TAKING INITIATIVE TO CONTACT EMBASSY LIBREVILLE.

4. BEAULIEU MENTIONED IN PASSING THAT ON DA GRACA'S BEHALF HE RECENTLY HAD SOUGHT ASSISTANCE FROM ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT MOTUTU BUT THAT MOBUTU HAD BEEN TOO BUSY WITH QUESTIONS OF ANGOLAN AND CABINDAN INDEPENDENCE TO BE FORTHCOMING.

5. BEAULIEU POINTED OUT THAT MIGUEL DA GRACA, WHO STILL WORKS FOR GOVERNMENT OF GABON, IS NOT TAKING A LEADING PUBLIC ROLE IN MLSTP. HIS BROTHER, DR. CAROLS DA GRACA, WHO LIVES WITH MIGUEL, IS A MEMBER OF THE MLSTP GROUP WORKING WITH THE PORTUGUESE TO PREPARE FOR INDEPENDENCE.

6. WE REITERATED TO BEAULIEU THAT US HAS GENUINE INTEREST IN FUTURE AND WELFARE OF DEVELOPING STATES BUT COULD NOT INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PORTUGAL OR SAN TOME AND PRINCIPE. WE NOTED FURTHER THAT US IS ALWAYS WILLING TO LISTEN TO REPRESENTATIVES OF MLSTP AND IT EXPLAIN US POLICY.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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